

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 352

By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Cullen Fitzpatrick Smith of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Cullen Fitzpatrick Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in north Alabama on September 30, 1944, Cullen Smith was the son of Robbie and Conner Smith; he and his family moved to Franklin, Tennessee, when he was a young boy, and it was there that he spent his youth, ultimately graduating from Franklin High School in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith graduated with a degree in business from the University of Alabama, where he was in the Air Force ROTC; upon graduation, he proudly served for four years in the U.S. Air Force medical corps as a captain, which experience he would later parlay into a career in the healthcare business; and

WHEREAS, Cullen Smith enjoyed a supremely successful, forty-year career in healthcare, the first two decades of which were spent at Durr-Fillauer, where he served as president and chief executive officer; during his tenure at Durr-Fillauer, he completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University School of Business; and

WHEREAS, he thereafter served as CEO of Montgomery Cardiovascular for ten years before returning to his hometown of Franklin, where he served as CEO of Centennial Heart for six years before retiring; and

WHEREAS, a great-grandson of a soldier who fought in the Battle of Franklin, Mr. Smith served as a board member, vice chairman, and board chairman of the Battle of Franklin Trust; a founding member and member of the board of directors for the Franklin Civil War Roundtable; board of directors member and president of Franklin's Charge; and a Carter House board member; and

WHEREAS, Cullen Smith was a devoted member of Stephens Valley Church in Nashville, where he served as an elder and participated in an early morning breakfast men's Bible study as well as a monthly afternoon Bible study; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered but sadly mourned by his wife, Jerolyn Ridgeway Smith; his children, Jeb Stuart (Jennie) Smith, John Ashley (Elizabeth) Smith, Kristen Carnes (Chip) Bratten, and Jay Talton (Caroline) Carnes; and his grandchildren, Phoebe Smith, Lena Smith, Jack Bratten, Sam Bratten, Caroline Bratten (Sam) Abernathy, Harlow Rose Carnes, and Colin Carnes; and

WHEREAS, Cullen Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Cullen Fitzpatrick Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.